

Letter from William Howard Taft to Alexander Graham Bell, January 17, 1916

League to Enforce Peace COMMITTEE ON HOME ORGANIZATION AMERICAN
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S. Houston, Treasurer William H. Short, Secretary 11 West 32D Street, New York 70
Fifth Avenue, New York 507 Fifth Avenue, New York Madison Square , 8460 Chelsea
2624 Murray Hill , 3060 accept January 17th, 1916. Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, 1331
Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C. My dear Dr. Bell:-

The absolute necessity, revealed by the European War, for establishing a new, better and more permanent basis for future international relations leads the Officers and the Executive Committee of the League to Enforce Peace to feel under obligation to do their utmost to fulfil the trust reposed in them by the conference held last June in Independence Hall, when it instructed them to take all proper means to carry into effect the resolutions there adopted.

The reception, both in this and in other countries, of the proposals put forth at that time has been such as to encourage the friends of the League, and to point, as the next step in its establishment, to the completion of our National and State organizations. The objects

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sought in so doing are to acquaint still further the people of the country with the League's platform, and to lay the foundation for securing action by our National authorities and their representatives looking to the establishment of the 2 proposed league of nations in an International Conference.

As President of the League, I take great pleasure in asking you to serve as a member of a General Committee of two hundred and fifty members, (of which the National Officers and Executive Committee are also members ex-officio). Among the duties of this Committee, as indicated in the enclosed printed plan of organization, is that of selecting annually the National Executive Committee of the League. It is also charged with moulding the general policy of the League in its larger aspects. Incidentally, the eminence of the gentlemen who compose the Committee will contribute to the standing and the influence of the League.

As a member of the League, I assume that you are already fully acquainted with its principles and aims. Thanking you for giving consideration to the request which the Executive Committee joins me in making, I remain

Very truly yours, WHTaft President.